



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

OBSTETRIC AND GYNÆCOLOGIC NURSING. By Edward P. Davis, A.M., M.D. Saunders & Co., publishers, Philadelphia.

This hand-book for nurses is one of the best of its kind we have seen, containing something over forty chapters of practical instruction. It is well illustrated, and the divisions of chapters and subjects are in excellent shape for the student nurse. Dr. Davis in his introduction speaks of a "thorough knowledge and drill in asepsis and antisepsis as being indispensable," and in the chapter upon puerperal sepsis makes this statement, which cannot be reiterated too often, "*the nurse should consider each pregnant and parturient patient as a surgical patient, and, as far as antiseptic precautions are concerned, an abortion or labor must be treated as a surgical operation.*" Viewed from this stand-point, the question naturally arises as to whether a school has either moral or educational right to give nurses obstetric training before they have had operating-room drill.

Besides the excellent chapters upon surgical apparatus, sterilization, and the preparation of dressings, sutures, room, and patient, there is much practical instruction upon the make-shifts of obstetric and surgical work in private houses, and last, but not least, timely suggestions upon a dignified demeanor in the confinement- and operating-rooms.

Every hospital, like every household, is necessarily more or less of a law unto itself, but the principles must be the same in all. A well-known obstetrician recently said that "Given a nurse and a doctor who thoroughly understand aseptic principles, the patient may be safely delivered on the door-mat."

As nurses we may be thought presuming to question any statement made by a medical author, but in Chapter IV., page 46, Dr. Davis says: "The first stage of labor extends from the first regular contractions of the uterus to the time when the membranes rupture and the greater part of the amniotic fluid escapes. During the first stage the neck and mouth of the womb gradually dilate or open." Other authorities agree in saying that the first stage of labor is "dilatation of os or cervix, beginning with the onset of labor and ending with complete expansion," without necessary relation to the rupture of membranes.

The only writer we could find who agreed with Dr. Davis was Clara Weeks in her hand-book of nursing, an authority not likely to be recognized by him.

